

Appl. No. 10/679,699
Amdt. dated March 7, 2007
Reply to Office Action mailed September 7, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 47-54 are pending. Support for these new claims can be found at least at page 7, lines 3-13, page 19, line 16 through page 20, line 11, and Example 2 of the specification and the claims, as filed. Claims 1-47 have been cancelled without intending to abandon or to dedicate to the public any patentable subject matter. As set forth more fully below, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections of the claims are respectfully requested.

Objection to the Specification

The typographical error noted by the Examiner has been corrected by amendment to the specification.

Objection to the Claims

The Examiner has objected to Claims 24-32 because they depend on non-elected Claims 20 and 22. This objection has been rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected Claims and under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as lacking enablement and as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

New Claim 47 corresponds to canceled Claim 17, which is included in the above rejections. However, Applicants have clearly provided an enabling description of the claimed method of diagnosing and monitoring multiple sclerosis and clearly had possession of the claimed invention at the time of the filing of the application. See, e.g., the following portions of the application: page 7, lines 3-13; page 19, line 16 through page 20, line 11; and Example 2. Accordingly, Applicants submit that new Claims 47-54 are adequately supported by the specification and comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and request that the rejection based on these requirements be withdrawn.

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Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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